

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First* ! – updated 29 August 2014

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Fishery	Water Conditions	Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches	Flies	Comments
Lake Almanor	Clear, high 60's, lake level is good.	Fishing is good to excellent. Rainbows are stacked in the mouth of Hamilton Branch and other tributaries seeking cool water. A float tube, pontoon boat or motor boat is best for stripping leach and pond smelt patterns on a uniform sinking line. Nymphing midges, attractor nymphs and egg patterns are producing rainbows to 3 pounds and more. Small cream midges hatching early and late. A small light cahill or parachute adams fished in the pocket water can rise big trout in the stream.	Lake woolly buggers/streamers J Fair wiggle tail (olive, brown, burnt orange) BH woolly bugger (black, olive, brown), crystal bugger, mini bugger black/olive, seal bugger (rust, olive, black), hale bopp leach (brown, olive), Mack's bugger, bunny leach (white), chub minnow (#6-12), Milt's floating pond smelt (#4-8). Attractor beadhead nymphs Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Hart's dark lord, copper john (red, copper) bird's nest, black AP, prince of darkness, king prince, dirty bird (tan, olive), Hogan's drifter, biotic nymph, Hogan's Red Headed Step Child (#10-18).	Float tube is needed for best access. Fishing pressure during the week is light with some pressure on the weekends at Hamilton Branch. CDAG pg 43. Road work on highway 32. Check Cal Trans for conditions.
Deer Creek (Along Highway 32)	Slight tint, low to mid 60's F, high flow.	Fishing is good. Fishing is best early and late when trout are actively eating small mayflies and midges in riffles and pocket water. As temps rise, switch to a beadhead nymph dropper tied to the bend of a caddis dry. Afternoon slows, take a break. Fishing improves as the sun is off the water with trout keying on yellow sallies and caddis. Good reports around Elam and Alder campgrounds where there are good numbers of stocked fish. When other small streams are low and warm, Deer Creek is holding strong with cold oxygenated water. Great 1-3 wt rod water.	Attractor dries irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, parachute adams, paralyzer, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, para wulff, (#10-18). Ant patterns Deer hair ant, 2 tone Para ant, Cutter's perfect ant, Schroeder's parachute ant, hi-vis foam ant, flying ant, fur ant, flying ant (#12-18). PMD emergers/cripples/dries Lawson's PMD emerger, fluttering mayfly cripple PMD, last chance PMD cripple, Quigley's Hat Creek PMD emerger, Brook's KD dun PMD, loopwing paradun PMD, Brook's sprout PMD, PMD biot comparadun, hackle stacker PMD, PMD hair wing dun, PMD sparkle dun, PMD parachute (#14-18). Caddis pupa/emergers and d Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access off Hwy 32 from Deer Creek bridge upstream to Hwy 36. Catch & Release from Deer Creek Falls down stream to Ishi Wilderness. NCDAG pg. 58.
Fall River (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd)	Slight tint, normal Summer flow.	Fishing is fair to good. Trout are keying on midges and baetis subsurface early. A small midge and mayfly nymphs fished below an indicator along the flats are producing good numbers. Trout concentrate on small areas with good insect activity. Surface activity is isolated with trout keying on caddis in the morning, PMD's mid morning and callibaetis in the afternoon. Stripping and swinging unweighted mohair leeches on an intermediate or type 2 sinking line is producing some quality trout. Weeds are thick but cool water is keeping the insects and trout active. Great time of year to get quality trout without the crowds.	Callibaetis dries sparkle dun, captive dun, CDC callibaetis transitional dun, Brook's CDC dun callibaetis, fluttering mayfly callibaetis, CDC biot comparadun, callibaetis extended body, Quigley's flashwing cripple, callibaetis cripple, Brook's sprout callibaetis, hackle stacker callibaetis, loopwing callibaetis, parachute adams, Callibaetis extended body (#14-16). Caddis cripples/dries and Midge pupa glass bead midge (red, black), crystal dip, disco midge, brassie, desert storm, zebra midge (rust, black), WD40 (olive, chocolate), skinny nelson, crystal HBI (#18-22). PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Lake woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Public access is at Cal Trout. NCDAG pg 38. CDAG pg 35.
Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, mid 60s F, good flow in low flow (1100 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (1,700 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is early and late when the first run of steelhead are feeding on caddis, midges and BWO. Caddis pupa and attractor beadhead nymphs are hot flies early and late in riffles. MIDDAY, steelhead will move to deep pools and runs, try a birds nest and attractor beadhead nymph under an indicator. Steelhead fishing will improve when cooler temps get salmon on their redds. Some reports of spey anglers swinging pink and purple intruders around Vance and Palm Ave. 8 weight spey with a Skagit and T-14 tip to get it down is producing a few big chrome Chinook. No salmon fishing in the low flow section!	Caddis pupa/emergers Fox's poopah (olive, tan), Hot wire caddis, Anderson's peeking green, green machine, Fox's springtime poopah, Amber wing prince, M's Dirty Bird, Hogan's steelie caddis, Silvey's submerger caddis (olive, tan), Silvey's edible emerger (#12-18). Steelhead wet flies/streamers Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), gray hackle yellow, chappie, burlap, bleeding prawn (chart/orange), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green butted skunk, freight train, sedge spey purple, red headed boss, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8). BWO/Baetis nymphs and Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. The stretch above Hwy 70 is closed until Jan 1. Be sure to have your steelhead card signed and dated before fishing. NCDAG pg 68, 78.

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Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, mid 60s F, 227 cfs below Rock Creek 239 below Grizzly Creek and 104 below Poe. Check flows at WWW.Dreamflows.com.	Fishing is fair. Best of the surface action is when the sun is off the water. Concentrate on pocket water below a riffle where temps are cool and bug activity is best. Best dry fly action is around Beldon where water is the coolest. Nymphing midday in oxygenated water will find rainbows finding relief from the midday sun. Cover water to find pods of fish with a golden stone, beadhead nymph or caddis pupa. Best nymphing is deep with heavy weight and no indicator to get flies down between the boulders. Use 4X tippet to have a chance to land these thick rainbows. The Caribou Road section provides good numbers of stocked trout.	Golden stonefly dries Hogan's split-wing stone, hedgehog, Hogan's hangin stimi, crystal stimulator, yellow humpy, rubber-legged stimulator, Rogue foam golden stone, Gould's half down golden, Sloan's paralyzer, Carlson's egg sack stone (#8-12). BWO nymphs Hogan's S&M nymph, Hogan's better baetis, berry nymph in gooseberry, Burk's crystal hunchback, Hogan's olive military may, Mercer's BWO trigger nymph, Kyle's beerhead baetis, tailwater tiny, flashy pheasant tail, Sloan's mighty may. PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Attractor beadhead nymphs and Midge pupa and Golden stonefly nymphs, Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere).	Expect light fishing pressure. Access along Hwy 70. Open to fishing from Cresta powerhouse to lake Oroville. NCDAG pg 59. CDAG pg 51.
Frank's Tract & San Joaquin Delta (including Mildred, San Joaquin River, and nearby sloughs)	Clear to slightly off color (3-6 ft visibility, mid to high 60s F.	Fishing is fair. The striper fishing if off to an early start. Lots of 8 to 15 inchers in the system, but a few 3-6 pounders mixed in. Best action is on or near the San Joaquin River. Switch to a bigger fly to get away from the schoolies. Good topwater early and late around the weed beds with gurglers and crease flies when the wind is down. Wind is definitely a problem this early in the season and can blow you off the water. Hot bay weather usually means the wind will decrease in the delta.	Striper patterns Flashtail clousers and whistlers in chartreuse/white, pink/white, all white, and black (2/0-3/0), pearly poppers (red/yellow, green/yellow), gurglers, crease fly.	Boat needed - rentals are available at Sugar Barge Marina on Bethel Island. Moderate to heavy fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 96 and 106. New CDAG pg. 72, 73.
Hat Creek (PH#2 to fish barrier)	Clear, low 50s F, good flow.	Fishing is fair early and late. Best action is on the flats early with a small trico, PMD or callibaetis with a long, fine leader. Midday is slow due to hot weather and lack of hatches. Fishing picks up around dusk with trout eating yellow sallies, PMD's and caddis. Cooler weather will improve hatches. Good reports at PH2 with a small beadhead nymph under a parachute style fly.	Attractor beadhead nymphs royal flush, Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Hart's dark lord, copper john (red, black, lime, copper) bird's nest, black AP, prince of darkness, king prince, dirty bird (tan, olive), Hogan's drifter, biotic nymph, Hogan's Red Headed Step Child (#10-18). Little yellow stone dries (listed elsewhere). PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Midge pupa (listed elsewhere).	Expect crowds at the PH#2 riffle on weekends. To escape the crowds, try fishing below Carbon Flat or the Hwy 299 bridge. NCDAG pg 48.
Hot Creek	Slight tint to off color, mid 50s F, low flow (6 cfs).	Fishing is good. Weeds are up and water temps are holding in the mid 60's. Dead drift a small caddis, BWO or hopper in open feeding lanes in weed beds. The best of the hatches are in the late afternoon with rainbows and browns rising to caddis. If caddis are too abundant, switch to a small hopper or ant pattern along the bank and in the open slots of vegetation. Getting hooked trout out of the weeds is always a challenge.	BWO/Baetis emerger/dries Brook's KD dun, Mercers emerging poxyback bwo, fluttering mayfly cripple BWO, Harrop captive dun, BWO extended body, Brooks CDC dun baetis, hackle stacker BWO, loopwing paradun, olive hatch master, parachute BWO, twilight baetis dun day-glo, BWO CDC transitional dun, Brook's sprout baetis, quill body baetis cripple, Harrop's CDC BWO emerger, Quigley's loopy cripple stacker, Burk's silhouette (#16-20). Midge pupa (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries and BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure on weekends. Access at upper parking lot and fish downstream to the hot springs. NCDAG pg 112.
Klamath River (mouth to Orleans)	Clear, high 60s, good flow (1190 cfs at Orleans).	Fishing is good. Recent pulse flows have brought more fish into the system and moved steelies up from Blue Creek where they have been stacked. Best fishing is from the mouth to Orleans with fish stacking near cool tributaries. In the morning and evening fish assassins, herniators, and mossbacks on a floating line with a longer leader. As the water temps increases midday, go deeper with a sink tip.	Steelhead wet flies/streamers Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green butted skunk, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8).	Expect heavy fishing pressure in the lower part of the river. Access at Orleans and Somes Bar along hwy 96. NCDAG 33, 34. New CDAG pg. 30, 31
McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir)	Good clarity, mid to high 50's, normal flow (207 cfs at Ash Camp, 198 cfs at Ah-Di-Na)	Fishing is fair. Hatches are slowing as they do in August but luckily trout remember. Prospecting with a golden stone, ant, PMD or streamer in pocket water can produce rainbows in the morning and evening. Nymphing with a golden stone and a small dark beadhead nymph is your best bet. Get the flies in deep oxygenated water for bigger trout. Fishing will improve when cool temps bring out hatches of October caddis.	Little yellow stone dries Mini hot, Brooks headlight little yellow sally, Cutter's little yellow sally, Quigley's little yellow sally, yellow stimulator, yellow crystal stimulator (#14-16). Golden stonefly dries Hogan's split-wing stone, hedgehog, Hogan's hangin stimi, crystal stimulator, yellow humpy, rubber-legged stimulator, Rogue foam golden stone, Gould's half down golden, Sloan's paralyzer, Carlson's egg sack stone (#8-12). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access below McCloud Reservoir. NCDAG 36.

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Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green to brown tint, 60- 66 degrees F on Pit 3, 331 cfs on Pit #3 but somewhat high, 424 cfs on Pit #4 with water temps at 64-70 degrees and 433 cfs on Pit #5.	Fishing is good. Pit 3 is fishing best from dawn to noon and again from 4pm to dark. Nymph the pocket water with black AP's, tan birdsnest and tan caddis pupa. Some caddis, PMD's and yellow sallies hatching below Pit #4 and 5 when the sun is off the water in the afternoon. Hatches are sparse and isolated. Good to have some dries just in case. No reports of Isonychia, but this is the time they start. Isonychia tend to concentrate in tailouts, so dead-drift with a big swing at the end of the drift.	River woolly buggers/streamers J Fair wiggle tail (olive, brown, burnt orange) BH woolly bugger (black, olive, brown), crystal bugger, mini bugger black/olive, seal bugger (rust, olive, black), hale bopp leach (brown, olive), bunny leach (white), chub minnow (#6-12). Golden stonefly nymphs jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Mercer's raghead, Poxyback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, micro cable stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. Caddis pupa/emergers and Attractor beadhead nymphs and Golden stonefly dries and Little yellow stone dries (listed elsewhere).	Low fishing pressure on 3, no pressure on 4. Access below Lake Britton or from Big Bend. Studded boots and a wading staff are a must for fishing the Pit. New flow regiment makes wading very tough. NCDAG pg 47. New CDAG pg. 34.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir to Butte City)	Green tint, low to mid 50s, moderate normal flow 7,500 cfs.	Fishing is fair to good. Salmon are starting to show due to warm temps on the lower river. Trout are eager for the egg drop. Even though salmon are not spawning yet, eggs are producing in riffles. From a drift boat, tandem flies under an indicator in 4-6 feet of water is the most productive method. Hot flies: Birds nest, Rubber legged stones, and PMD nymphs. Best dry fly fishing with caddis dries is just before dark when the sun is off the water. Stripers are actively feeding on pike minnow and juvenile shad on weed beds and around structure. Chartreuse and white clousers and whistlers stripped in 3-6 feet of water will find stripers. Best fishing is around Chico.	Caddis cripples/dries Hogan's last call caddis, Henryville, Brook's headlight, elk hair caddis (brown, tan, olive), Cutter's E/C, Overly's spotlight (tan, olive), Hemingway, Goddard caddis, hot butt peacock caddis, peacock caddis, Lawson's E-Z caddis, Fox's crowning poopah olv/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20), Caddis pupa/emergers Fox's poopah (olive, tan), Hot wire caddis, Anderson's peeking green, green machine, Fox's springtime poopah, Amber wing prince, M's Dirty Bird, Hogan's steelie caddis, Silvey's edible emerger (#12-18). Little yellow stonefly nymphs poxy back micro stone tungsten hotwire prince, Morrish's iron sally (#14-16). Golden stonefly nymphs and Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO nymphs and PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Drift boat fishing is provides best access. Market St, Convention Center, Barge Hole and below Cypress Bridge are all good spots to wade. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41
Yuba River, North Fork (between Downieville and Sierra City)	Clear, mid to high 60's, low flow (low).	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is near Sierra City where water temps are cool when the sun is off the water. Matching the hatch is not as important that a good dead drift with an attractor dry with a small beadhead dropper. This is great 3 weight rod water with plenty of 6-10 inch trout.	Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor dries (listed elsewhere in the report). Golden stonefly nymphs and Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere).	Light fishing pressure. Access off of Hwy 49. NCDAG pg 70.
Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Clear, low 50s F, moderate flow, 1,012 cfs below Englebright.	Fishing is fair. Flows are coming down and salmon are starting to show. Be sure to fish egg patterns in the morning behind pods of salmon in riffles. Salmon are not spawning yet but trout are eager. Best action is with dark stonefly nymphs and a midge dropper. Best hatches above highway 20 (Parks Bar) and above Hammond Grove. The Yuba closes above Hwy 20 Bridge August 31 st .	PMD emergers/cripples/dries Lawson's PMD emerger, fluttering mayfly cripple PMD, last chance PMD cripple, Quigley's Hat Creek PMD emerger, Brook's KD dun PMD, loopwing paradun PMD, Brook's sprout PMD, PMD biot comparadun, hackle stacker PMD, PMD hair wing dun, PMD sparkle dun, PMD parachute (#14-18). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO/Baetis nymphs and Midge pupa and BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere).	Water above Hwy 20 bridge is open from December 1 st until August 31 st . Access at the Hwy 20 bridge and Sycamore Ranch campground. NCDAG pg 78,79.
Other Reports. Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stateline) is improving with cool nights. Best fishing is dawn to 10 am when water temps are their coolest. Best fishing is on cloudy days or rainy afternoons. Be sure to check the water temps before you fish! Little Truckee (Between Stampede and Boca Reservoirs) Trout are very spooky and not eager to rise to just any attractor dry. Light tippet, a stealthy presence and a good match to the hatch is essential for hooking these wild fish. Look for trout rising to PMD's, caddis and yellow sallies mid-morning. Bring a thermometer! Trout do not revive well in water over 70 degrees. Carson River, E.F. (Along Hwy 89 downstream to Nevada) Best fishing is early when water temps are cool and fish are active. Look for trout rising to tricos along the edges. Water clarity is off below Hangman's bridge slowing down the hatch. Be done fishing around 10am when water temps start to rise. Bring a thermometer! Please do not fish water above 70 degrees. Trinity River (near Lewiston) is fishing fair. Best action in the morning is with a beadhead nymph and caddis pupa under an indicator in the morning before hatches get going. In the afternoon, trout are rising to hatches of PMD's and caddis. Biggest fish are on streamers swung with a sink tip line in the deepest runs and pools. A few chrome steelhead starting to show in lowers sections around Willow Creek. The bulk of the fish will start their run up the trinity towards the end of September. Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa) High summer flows making fishing tough. Fish the breaks in the current and along the edges with midges and BWO nymphs suspended under an indicator. Best fishing is in the morning when trout are feeding on midges and BWO's. Flows have increased making it difficult to land fish on 6X tippet. Concentrate on back eddies and breaks in the current. Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta) is fishing early and the last 15 minutes of light. Best action is in Dunsmuir where cool water and planted trout provide good action for anglers perfecting their dead drift. Look for trout keying on caddis when the sun is off the water. Water is too warm on lower sections below Sims Exit. Feather River, Middle Fork (Graeagle downstream) Fishing is slow due to low flows and hot temperatures. Some action below Two Rivers where tributaries add some cooler water. Best action is early and late when trout are rising to caddis and yellow sallies. Baum Lake is fishing best early and late with hatches of PMD's, Caddis and callibaetis in the main current. Midday, fish the edges of the weed beds with bugger patterns on a sink tip.				
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